

# THE TECH

DAILY

VOL. XXIX. NO. 70.

BOSTON, MASS., MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1909

PRICE ONE CENT

## DEAN BURTON IN FAVOR OF HONORARY SOCIETY

### Establishment Of Sigma Xi Unsuccessfully Attempted Three Years Ago

Three years ago an agitation of a few students and some of the faculty very nearly resulted in a chapter of Sigma Xi being established at the Institute. However, the matter has since been dropped on account of the lack of interest of the upper classmen. Nevertheless, some of the faculty expressed their desirehrdu mrdletaoinhrd u ua their opinion that this apparent lack of interest is the result of an insufficient knowledge of what Sigma Xi really stands for, and what it actually promotes. If our upper classmen once earnestly investigate the great advantages to be obtained by having a chapter here at the Institute, their lack of interest will be converted into an ardent desire. As men who must in the future associate with graduates of other colleges we should have the social and intellectual advantages that such a society would promote. This is the opinion of several members of the faculty, and in particular Dean Burton in his last report to the President expressed himself as follows:

The organizations in connection with the different courses of instruction encourage an interest in professional work, but it seems desirable that there should be some general society of upper-classmen which has for its basis, excellence in scholarship. At almost all of the larger universities and technical schools, there are such honorary societies based on scholarly attainments, and their effect is very encouraging to the earnest student.

In every classical college and in many of the scientific universities there are chapters of the honorary Greek letter societies. The vast majority of these organizations are academic rather than scientific. One organization that stands out as being distinctly scientific is the Sigma Xi. This society was founded in 1886 at Cornell. The object of Sigma Xi is to encourage original investigations in science, both pure and applied, by meeting for the discussion of scientific subjects; by the publication of such scientific matters as may be deemed desirable; by establishing fraternal relations among investigators in the scientific centres; and by granting the privilege of membership to such students as have, during their college course, given special promise of future achievement.

Article II, Sec. 1 of the constitution of Sigma Xi states that:—"Chapters may be established at any institution offering courses of study in those subjects which it is the object of this society to promote, provided that these courses are substantially equivalent to the usual four year college course."

Article III, Sec. 4 states: "The following, and no others, are eligible to active membership in a chapter at any institution."

(1) Any professor or instructor of the institution who has shown noteworthy achievement as an original investigator in some branch of science, pure or applied.

(2) Any resident graduate who has by actual work exhibited an aptitude for scientific investigation.

(3) Any undergraduate in the fourth year class, or else in the class substantially equivalent thereto, who has given promise of marked ability in those lines of work which it is the object of this society to promote."

(Continued on page 2.)

## AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES MEET IN BOSTON

### Sixty-First Annual Meeting To Be Held Here Next Week

At the invitation of Technology and Harvard, the American Society for the advancement of science together with its affiliated societies in mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, economics, anthropology and education—27 in all, will hold its meetings in Boston from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1 inclusive. These meetings, of which this is the sixty-first, are held at least once a year in various cities. The last meeting at Boston was in 1898.

The arrangements for the Boston meeting is under the direction of a committee of six members. Dr. Tyler of the mathematics department is president, and Mr. G. W. Swett of the mechanical engineering department, is secretary of this committee. The opening session is in Huntington Hall, at ten o'clock, Monday morning, Dec. 27. At this meeting the visitors will be greeted by President MacLaurin and Dean W. C. Sabine of Harvard, and then the retiring president of the society will deliver an address. The society will make the Union its headquarters during this convocation and most of the meetings will be held in the various buildings of the Institute. The group of societies interested in biology, medicine, and allied sciences will have their headquarters at the Harvard Medical School.

A very interesting program has been announced: special attention should be called to a popular address, free to the citizens of Boston, on the Hookworm Disease which is now so prevalent in the southern part of our country, by Dr. C. W. Stiles of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. The engineering section intend to make aeronautical engineering an especial feature of its meeting.

Many valuable papers will be read by men of the highest scientific standing. That of Prof. Walker before the American Chemical Society on the "Effect of Paint and Varnish Films on the Corrosion of Iron," will prove most instructive. The experimental work has been carried on in the laboratories of the Institute by Mr. M. T. Jones, Jr., an assistant in the research laboratory, under the direction of Prof. Walker.

The program for the entire meeting will be issued on Dec. 27, but the following events have been announced in advance:

On Monday—Address of welcome in Huntington Hall. Announcements. Organization of the several sections. Addresses to separate societies by vice-presidents.

On Tuesday and Wednesday—Addresses to the different sections by their respective vice-presidents.

The president of the society is Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford, Jr., University and the other officers are men whose names are by-words in their respective professions, including many from the Institute faculty. The object of these meetings is to bring men of science into closer touch with each other and with the latest developments in their own and allied professions.

### COURSE III ISSUE.

The special course III issue of The Tech which will come out on January 8, will contain a picture of the seniors, juniors and sophomores in Course III. This picture will be taken on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 1:10:01 sharp, on Rogers' steps.

## MR. ROBERT A. SHAILER TO TALK ON TUNNEL

### Meeting Of Mechanical Engineering Society To Be Held Wednesday

The Mechanical Engineering Society will hold a meeting at the Union, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1909, at 8 P. M. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Robert A. Shailer 1873, who will give an informal talk on "Tunnels and Tunnel Construction." The talk will be illustrated with lantern slides and will be open to all students of the Institute who are interested in the subject.

Mr. Shailer was a member of one of the first few classes that graduated from the Institute and received most of his instruction in the Rogers Building, which at that time was the only building that the Institute could boast of.

Mr. Shailer is ranked as one of the greatest authorities on tunnel construction in the country. Many important tunnels are credited to his design. The most noteworthy of these are perhaps the East Boston Tunnel, the Scollay Square and Haymarket Square sections of the Boston Subway and the Belmont Tunnels in New York. This latter was a great piece of engineering work and for the satisfactory completion of it within three years, Mr. Shailer was offered a bonus of \$100,000. The tunnels were constructed well within the allotted time.

At present Mr. Shailer is consulting engineer for the Cambridge subway and for the great water aqueduct from the Catskills to New York city.

All course I men were invited to attend.

## ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

### Advanced Course Described In Electrical World Of Dec. 16

The following is an extract from the Electrical World of Dec. 16, 1909:

"During the past year, the regulations for the degree of Doctor of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have been made more definite and have been placed in the hands of the board which also administers the regulations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The requirements for the degrees of Doctor of Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy have now been made substantially the same so far as the period of study and the candidate's attainments are concerned. The executive committee has voted to maintain two Austin research fellowships carrying a grant of \$500 each and the remission of tuition fees, which are now to be open equally to candidates for the degree of Doctor of Engineering or Doctor of Philosophy. In addition to these other graduate scholarships and fellowships are maintained, numbering 15 this year.

During the present year, 17 candidates for advanced degrees have been awarded fellowships or graduate scholarships. Two of these were for the encouragement of advanced study in Germany by graduates of the Institute, and the remainder for the encouragement of advanced study at the Institute.

The number of candidates for the Doctor's degree in Engineering and Philosophy have this year increased largely over the number of candidates

(Continued on page 2.)

## INDOOR TRACK WORK PROGRESSING SLOWLY

### Freshmen Come Out Strongest For Basket-Ball Practice And Track

Coach Frank Kanaly was emphatic in his statement that it is absolutely necessary for more men to come out for Indoor work if Tech hopes to win the Spring N. E. I. A. A. meet,

The freshman crowd was as usual the largest at the preliminary practice of the Indoor track team held at the Gym last Thursday; in fact the number of men from the other classes was woefully small in comparison.

The annual inter-class meet comes on January 14.

H. C. Albee, the manager of the sophomore basket-ball team expressed himself as dissatisfied with the way in which the Sophomores have been coming out for practice. The freshmen have excellent material and lots of it, and according to all accounts the sophomores will have to work hard and conscientiously if they hope to win the class basketball game.

Regular practice of all the teams was held on Friday. The freshmen showed good form, H. F. Johnston 1913, doing some particularly good work. During the vacation all practice will drop as most of the men are leaving Boston.

## GREAT COMPETITION

The greatest competition that the Institute has ever seen is about to be perpetuated on the unsuspecting public of this community. Get into it! Mount your Pegasus and rise to unthought heights of poetical expression. Even though the lyric competition for the Show has absorbed the best energies of our poets, yet we hope to receive some brilliant verses, because of the desirability of the prize.

Below we give a beautiful jewel of lyric poetry, and we offer to the man who produces the best simulation or amplification thereof a handsome prize; but more of this prize anon. Here is the poem:

One out of three buys The Tech.  
The other two both stretch their neck,  
To get news when there's any,  
Without paying their penny,  
And The Tech they declare is a wreck.

The presentation ceremony will take place next Friday night at the Union. The ceremony will begin with a triumphal march of the whole Tech staff around the large room. During this procession the spectators will sing:

'Tis morn and the shadows of the night pass away.  
While the alarm-clock rings at the break of day.

Followin tghe triumphal march, the successful author will be presented with the prize — a plush-lined box of jelly-beans.

Send your doggerel now!

### CALENDAR

Monday, Dec. 20.

4:15 P. M.—Special Gym Team Practice—Gym.  
4:15 P. M.—Basketball Practice—Gym.  
3:30 P. M.—Hockey Practice.

Tuesday, Dec. 21.

4:00 P. M.—Senior Portfolio Ballots due at Cage.  
8:00 P. M.—Gym Meet at Gym.

**THE TECH.**

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BOSTON, MASS., DECEMBER 20, 1909.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE NEWS**

Harvard's baseball schedule has been completed as follows:

April 20—University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

April 21—University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

April 23—Georgetown at Washington.

April 28—Williams at Cambridge.

April 30—Tufts at Cambridge.

May 3—Holy Cross at Worcester.

May 4—University of Virginia at Cambridge.

May 11—Amherst at Cambridge.

May 14—Princeton at Princeton.

May 18—Bates at Cambridge.

May 21—Princeton at Cambridge.

May 25—Princeton at New York (in case of a tie.)

May 28—Brown at Providence.

May 30—Andover at Andover.

June 1—Exeter at Cambridge.

June 4—Cornell at Cambridge.

June 8—Dartmouth at Cambridge.

June 17—Brown at Cambridge.

June 21—Yale at New Haven.

June 23—Yale at Cambridge.

June 28—Yale at New York or at Boston (in case of a tie.)

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SIGMA XI.**

(Continued from page 1.)

So far as membership is concerned it is evident that the vast majority of our seniors and graduates are eligible. The keynote of what Sigma Xi stands for is expressed in its motto—"Companions in Zealous Research." It is a society which primarily looks after the strictly professional interests of its members. In this respect it is radically different from the other Greek letter societies which promote social activities rather than professional interests. However, it must not be understood that Sigma Xi is entirely void of social life, because while this does prevail, it does not predominate. Scientific research, the ardent encouragement of young investigators, the earnest forwarding of the professional interests of its members, these are the issues held paramount by the Sigma Xi.

Membership in this organization brings a man into contact, both in a professional and social way, with the foremost men of science. The greater number of the members are professors, prominent engineers and men engaged in original scientific investigations. At universities which have chapters of Sigma Xi the students regard it as a great honor to be elected, for they realize that this is a reward well worth winning. This feeling towards Sigma Xi promotes a keen stimulus for scholarly attainments, for a student ever holds in view the fact that if he succeeds there will be a personal recognition of his endeavors and not merely a cold blooded faculty report.

**HORNET'S NEST**

"Well," said Cad, "I didn't know I was starting anything when I told you fellows about the fun we had with the freshmen down at Cadonia three years ago. Who did it?"

"Someone went right to Dick Goodthing with it, and he called the mass meeting at once," said Dick. "But what's the use? It makes me sore to see this thing go through with nothing but a few sets of resolutions. Clubs or cold water would have been much more effective. Probably the next freshman class will be willing to risk a few resolutions for a big time."

"Well, you can't expect the same action of your scattered student body as was taken by ours," said Cad. "You're too young here. Down at Cadonia the age of our traditions is measured in centuries, and our students grow up like one family on the college campus. If the Stute were older and had a campus, things might have gone more according to your ideas, Dick."

"Still," rejoined Dick, "our traditions will never grow hoary with age unless they are consistently enforced. And here's one of our few established ones overridden—it no longer remains the distinctive privilege of the graduating class within a week of graduation to go downtown for dinner. Next thing, the freshmen will be getting out Technique or running a rival Prom!"

"Let's hope it isn't as bad as that," said Cad. "But I think those freshmen will stand watching."

**TALK ON TUNNEL**

(Continued from page 1.)

last year. The increasing importance of this work at the Institute of Technology has led to a more effective organization for carrying on the work. The number of students entered as candidates for the Master's degree is also considerably increased over last year.

The advanced instruction in the theory of alternating currents and electrical transmission of power accompanied by advanced research is continued this year under the direction of Dr. Harold Pender, whose investigations in these branches are well known.

Prof. Pender's duties in the Electrical Engineering staff of the Institute include the direction of the important under-graduate course in Elements of Electrical Engineering which is provided for the junior students in electrical engineering and electro-chemistry, and the naval constructors who are detailed by the U. S. government for study at the Institute, and also include the advanced lectures for graduate students just referred to on alternating currents and the transmission of power and the investigations and research carried on by such students. Other work carried on by the department for the benefit of students desiring to do original research or studying with a view of obtaining advanced degrees, include the lectures and investigations under Prof. Jackson on the organization and administration of public service corporations and the instruction on the designing of electric plants by Prof. Wickenden. Various researches are now going on in the electrical engineering laboratories in connection with this graduate work."

L. R. Brown 1911, has been elected captain of the Cornell cross country team for next year. Brown finished eighth in the intercollegiate race held here this fall, scoring as fifth man for Cornell.

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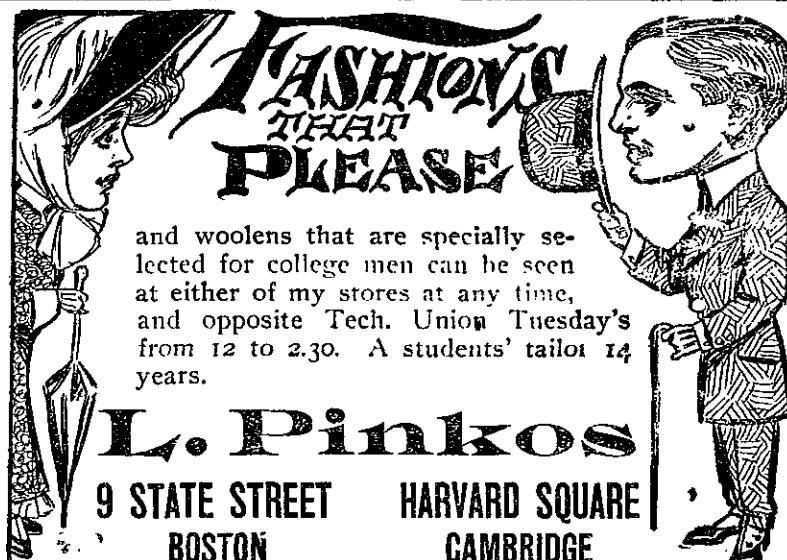
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**INTERCOLLEGiate NEWS.**  
The Athletic Committee at Harvard has approved the re-appointment of A. Winsor 1902, as hockey coach. The following schedule has been arranged:  
Jan. 5—M. I. T. at Boston.  
Jan. 8—Cornell at New York.  
Jan. 13—Columbia at Boston.  
Jan. 15—Princeton at New York.  
Jan. 22—McGill University at Boston.  
Jan. 26—Amherst at Boston.  
Jan. 29—St. Nicholas at Boston.  
Feb. 5—St. Francis Xavier at Boston.  
Feb. 12—Dartmouth at Boston.  
Feb. 19—Yale at Boston.

**GENERAL NOTICES.****FIRST YEAR.**

**Entrance Condition Examinations.** First-year students are expected to take at the end of the present term all entrance examinations in which they have not already clear records, with the following exceptions:

1. Students having conditions in entrance History and entrance Physics. No examination will be held in entrance History and entrance Physics at the semi-annual examination period.

2. Special students taking no work dependent on entrance subjects in which they have not clear records. Such students, if they desire to become regular, may take remaining examinations in June or September.

3. Students who are now making up entrance French and German by taking the elementary courses, although they

are privileged to take these examinations.

4. Students entitled to excuse from particular entrance conditions on the basis of good term work. This applies to conditions in entrance Algebra, English, French, German, and Plane Geometry and students will be notified if excuse can be given.

For the Faculty Committee on Entrance Examinations,

WALTER HUMPHREYS,  
Registrar.

December 14, 1909.

**FIRST YEAR.**

Conference hours for students who wish to confer with Heads of Departments in regard to the Choice of Course.

COURSE I—Prof. Spofford will meet students on Tuesday, Dec. 21st, from 1 to 1:30 in 42 Eng. A.

COURSE VI—Prof. Jackson will meet students on Monday, Dec. 20th, at 1 P. M. in 6 Lowell.

COURSE VIII—Prof. Cross will meet students any day but Saturday at 12:05 in 11 Walker.

COURSE XI—Prof. Porter will meet students on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, from 1 to 2 in 46 Eng. A.

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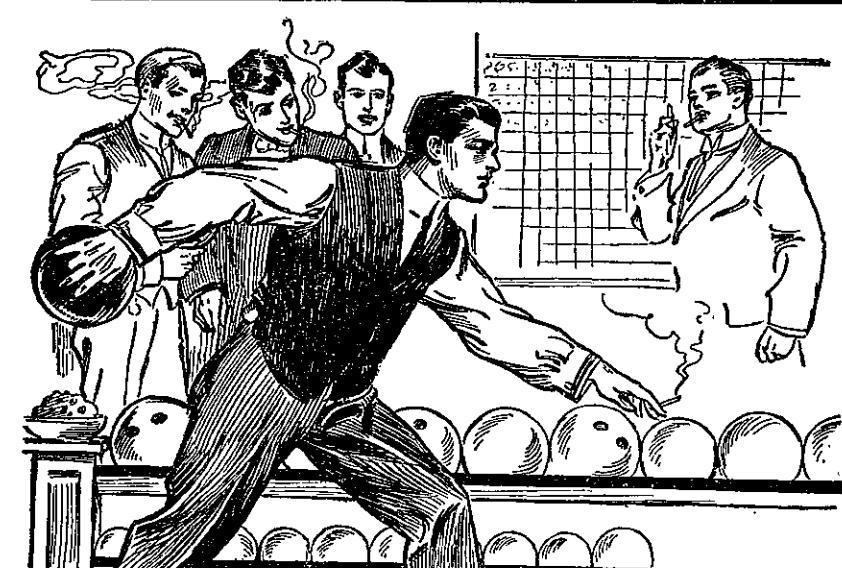
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Menu, December 20, 1909.  
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Fried Filet of Sole, Tartar Sauce  
Hamburg Steak and Onions.  
Breaded Lamb Chops, Tomato Sauce  
Braise Oxjoint with Vegetables  
Boiled Ham and Mashed Turnips  
Roast Ribs of Beef  
Roast Lamb, Brown Gravy  
Chocolate Cream Fritters, Vanilla See.  
Pastry or Coffee 20 cents

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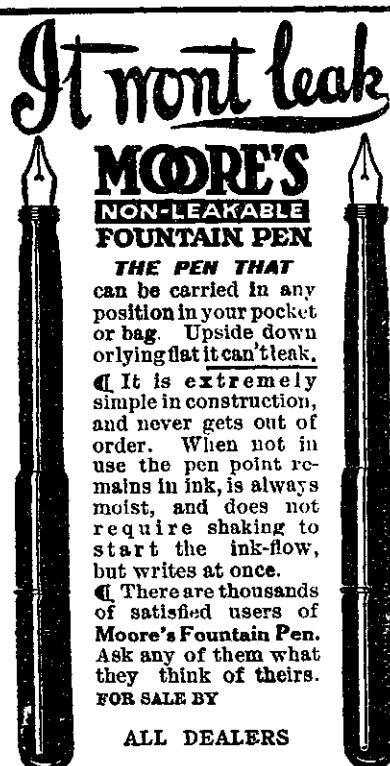
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Assignments ready for No. 7.

## MILITARY SCIENCE.

The Drill hour, on Mondays and Fridays, on and after January 3rd will be changed from three to two o'clock.

WALTER HUMPHREYS,  
Registrar.

## TECH SHOW

All lyrics to be handed in at Cage for K. Greenleaf by 4 P. M. Dec. 18. Music writers to meet Mgr. Greenleaf in Show office at 4 P. M., Tuesday, Dec. 21.

1910.

Ballots for the Senior Portfolio Committee are addressed to every man in the class and may be obtained upon application at Cage. Only those who have paid class dues in full will be allowed to vote. No ballots received after Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 4 P. M.

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C. H. STRANG.

Every student in the Institute should obtain, if he has not already done so, a copy of last Friday's Tech which contains President MacLaurin's report. There are a few copies left and every man should get one at once.

WANTED—A copy of the June 5th, 1905, "Junior Prom" issue of the Tech. Will person having a copy communicate with the Circulation Manager of the Tech?

Side and square room. Hot and cold water. Large closet. \$1.50-\$3.00. No. 14 Claremont Park. Mrs. James. D. Hall.

## FOUND.

Two bunches of keys. Identify same at the Cage. Owner to pay charge of this insertion.

## LOST.

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